

THE ART OF WEARING JEWELS.

BY LILLIAN RUSSELL.

"You Must Be An Artist to Wear Jewels with Taste"

SAYS

Lillian Russell

DECORATION is an art, and according to Goethe, "Art is selection." Therefore, the woman who ornaments her bodies properly, whether with costumes, jewelry, or cosmetics, must be an artist.

In other words, to be truly beautiful must be the product of an artist as well as a child of nature. In no way does a woman reveal her artistic temperament more than in the jewelry she wears. She can remind one of the first wearer of ornaments, the monkey which hung a bit of colored weed about its neck and admired itself in the pool; she can show the taste of our barbaric ancestors who wore the first string of shells and stones together and decorated their persons with them, or she can reveal the sincere artistic love of the beautiful.

The child shows the primitive instinct of the monkey, which is merely the appreciation of color, when it decorates itself with bits of bright cloth or paper. Later it reaches the barbaric stage, when it adds fantastic shapes and peculiar combination of color to its ornament.

Neither the child nor the barbarian has yet added commercial value to its ornaments. That is left to the ostentation which will wear any kind or combination of gold and jewels if they show that they cost a great deal of money. The barbaric ornament always has the beauty of sincerity of purpose, even when it lacks the most refined taste, and this is more than can be said of the ostentatious jewel.

Barbarian Shows Own Preference.

From sheer lack of knowledge the barbarian must show his own preference. He takes from nature her gaudiest colors and most beautiful shapes and weaves them into ornaments for himself or those he loves best.

With the birth of civilization came the refining of the ornamentation of the body, but taste is a matter of growth in spirit as well as experience. However, personal ornaments appear to have been among the first objects on which the invention and ingenuity of man were exercised, and among the modern oriental nations we find almost every kind of personal decoration from the simple caste mark on the forehead of the Hindu to the gorgeous examples of beaten gold and silver work of the various provinces and cities of India.

These old ornaments are always beautiful, and the workmanship shows loving care and individual taste. Of much greater worth is any one of these old Egyptian pieces of hammered work, with its evidence of incising and chasing, and its combination of layers of gold plates with colored stones, the handicraft being more complete in every respect than the wretched results of the rococo of Louis XIV. or the imitations of what modern revivalists of the Anglo-Dutch school call "Queen Anne."

When we compare the extravagantly made modern jewelry with the examples from India, we are compelled to acknowledge that in spite of the sometimes inferior workmanship the oriental jeweler knew his business and carried it out with singular simplicity of method. His combinations were always harmonious and the result aimed at always achieved.

Beauty of Nature the Greatest.

He seemed to understand there is more of God's handiwork shown in the irregular pearls of a barbarian collar than in all the cut emeralds and diamonds in the world.

I had in my possession at one time an oriental bracelet of old workmanship. It was studded with rubies and strung together with pearls. I wanted to give it to a friend, and for this purpose had made at one of the largest jewelry shops in London a class—my order was "match it as nearly as possible." When it came to me it was most interesting to notice the difference between oriental and occidental workmanship. The clasp was beautifully made, after a pattern, but it had none of that beauty which hung around the band itself where every separate piece of gold plate had a little individuality of its own, being worked out with the care that one sees in an oriental rug. My friend, who is a connoisseur of old jewelry, was especially delighted with this bracelet because it combined the craftsmanship of both the ancient and modern goldsmiths and workers in jewels.

When you buy jewelry remember that taste is the richest jewel, that with a few grains of gold Benvenuto Cellini fashioned articles of such exquisite beauty that the worth of diamonds alone could purchase them. So, when I speak of jewelry, I do not merely mean the machine made article that can be picked up for a song anywhere, that has a sheen like a mirror, and has been formed in a die with thousands and thousands of other pieces exactly like it and which has only a momentary value.

Individuality in Jewelry Desirable.

Instead, try to buy jewelry that almost speaks—jewelry into which a loving thought has been wrought, the best work of an individual made just because he or she couldn't help making it. Perhaps that sounds queer to you, but in these days of individuality the cult has deeply rooted itself in the hearts of the craftsmen and the dingy little shop of the jewelry designer is almost sacred. And when you see these beautiful pieces of the modern craftsman's art you cannot help exclaiming, "How beautiful!" There is a passage in Proverbs which best describes it: "An ornament of grace unto thy head and chains of beauty about thy neck." These bits of handicraft are evidences of refinement which has always existed in the world and to possess them is to show that one is a lover of beauty, if you love the real beauty of jewel decoration.

Your fingers tremble when the goldsmith places before you the beautiful hand wrought gems. You catch the light in his eye and you feel that his whole life is wrapped up in each tiny piece. You know that he has studied the ideas of artists and craftsmen of long ago, for the antiquity of most of the articles of personal adornment is indisputable. From the pyramids of Egypt, the tombs of Pompeii, and the excavated dwellings of Nineveh we recover from time to time a little gold ornament, a part of a bronze, or jewel curiously set, and from these the modern jeweler has made something more beautiful because it embodies the idea of the old craftsmen with the vitality of the modern workmanship.

The wearing of jewelry is one of the most important factors of the makeup of a beautiful woman's appearance. Plain women may wear more than the ordinary share of ornaments to make up for what they lack in beauty, but good taste should always be displayed.

A lovely woman should never put on many pieces of jewelry at a time, nor should they be so brilliant and beautiful as to detract from her own beauty.

Eyes' Brilliance Dimmed by Diamonds.

No woman should wear diamond earrings, as they detract from the brilliancy of her eyes. A woman of certain type can wear a diamond at the center of her forehead, just at the edge of her hair, catching it back among her tresses with a slender gold chain. This is much more artistic and beautiful than the diamond tiaras and crowns worn by our American women of wealth. Jewels of this kind spell only ostentation. On the American head they stand for nothing but the almighty dollar. Crowns and coronets are only properly worn as an insignia of rank, and with us "rank is but the guinea's stamp."

All women love jewels, however. Indeed, a learned professor tendered the idea the other day that woman had never become quite civilized, and spoke of her admiration of gewgaws and jewelry as an illustration of it.

Women of wealth own fortunes in jewels and sometimes make most vulgar displays of them. The "horse-shoe" at the Metropolitan opera house in season is only an advertisement of the wealth of New York's society set. It does not stand for the most artistic use of jewels nor taste of the wearers.

Again, when you wear jewels, be sure of their fitness to your station and environment. A string of blue



The Dowager Queen of Italy. Her Pearls Were Given to Her One by One by Her Son, Who Spent His Pocket Money for Them

Italian beads on the collarless throat of a 16 year old maid is more beautiful than a diamond dog collar.

Pearls Worn on All Occasions.

Pearls are becoming to almost every one, although they do not look well on old people, but until you are 60 you can wear pearls—provided your income allows it—with a feeling of their fitness.

There is another virtue in a string of pearls—it is like your great-grandmother's black silk dress—it can be worn on all occasions. Although they are the most expensive gems in the world, yet they never have the look of ostentation. For parents in affluent circumstances there is no more beautiful gift to their daughter on her birthday anniversary than a beautiful pearl. Then when she is 18 years old she will possess a splendid bit of personal ornamentation in unimpeachable taste, which will last her all her life.

Don't wear a number of different precious stones in rings. The harmony of colors is quite as important a matter in the selection of jewels as it is in your apparel—and you must be careful not to "kill" your gowns by adding to your costumes inappropriate jewels.

Most women, however, wear jewels only in a way that marks them as walking advertisements of their husbands' prosperity. If the market goes his way he brings his wife a diamond solitaire that reminds one of a headlight.

The fastidious woman fixes her attention on one or two stones, and wears them to the exclusion of all others. Of all my rings I find myself wearing most often two—one a black and the other, a white pearl. Find out what stone is most becoming to you, and then keep to it, and remember a few fine stones are a better choice than many inferior ones.

Spirit of Covetousness Aroused.

Imitation jewelry is a curse that has done much to deprave the taste of the modern woman, until some of



Miss Russell in What She Considers a Display of Jewelry



Mrs. George Gould Possesses a Fortune in Pearls and Diamonds

them decorate their persons until they express nothing else but the distracting melody of a jeweler's window.

Ella Adella Fletcher justly says, "There is an ethical as well as an aesthetic reason for taboos the ostentatious display of jewels on the street and in public places. The ringed fingers, glittering chains, and dazzling pins are not only the stamp of the vulgar woman, but a blatant and assertive proclamation of wealth before our poorer and sometimes very weak sisters, whose worst passions of covetousness, envy, and discontent are aroused by the spectacle."

However, we are improving in our wearing of jewelry, just as we are improving in everything else. Today artistic jewelry is the essence of refinement. Every brooch, pendant, ring, or earring has a story connected with it, a reason for being. The wonderful Lalique of Paris is perhaps the most artistic jeweler of today, and a peacock feather in jewels and enamel, a conventionalized butterfly made by him and worn as a single ornament is apt to be the highest and most esthetic taste that can be shown by the artistic woman of today.

We must not forget that beauty is in itself an ornament; that it is impossible to separate people from their appearance. In our memory people's faces are pictured. The wisest of men has called "beauty a jewel of gold, the value of which is not destroyed but only checked by being occasionally found in a swine's snout."

The vulgar display of jewels is a thing of the past among cultivated people. Education and refinement lead never use a sharp instrument under the nails. It not

to art, the essence of true beauty. An idea should be conveyed in the wearing of jewelry—the chain with an amulet for good luck, a heart for love, and a cross for religion.

ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

MRS. K.: In the case of a double chin, prevention is much easier than cure. High, tight collars always make ugly rolls of fat under the chin, and holding the head down is fatal. The following exercise is beneficial for a double chin: First throw the head back with sufficient force to put all the muscles on the stretch. Then in the same manner twist the head first to the right and then to the left. A fourth useful movement consists in thrusting out the lower jaw as far as possible and bringing back firmly the corners of the mouth, putting all the muscles under the chin on a firm stretch. After first using them the muscles of the chin might feel sore, but that shows that the muscles are getting the needed exercise.

EL. R.: Of course, you know some people can use some things on their face with the greatest success, while others cannot use the thing at all. Glycerin will burn some skins, while to others it is soothing. I do not think that lanolin will cause a growth of hair on the face. I use lanolin clear on my own face. You must bear in mind that while one thing is good for one person, another cannot use it.

GRACE: To keep the nails in proper condition they should be manicured at least once a week, and every day the cuticle should be pushed back with the blunt end of an orangewood stick and polished. Never use a sharp instrument under the nails. It not



Miss Russell Wearing Her Famous String of Pearls Which She Considers the Acme of Good Taste



Mrs. William B. Leeds Whose Beautiful Pearl Necklace Has Received Much Newspaper Comment

only injures the delicate surface but roughens it, and it is almost impossible to keep the nails clean. The white spots on your nails are caused from a bruise. Nothing can take the spots out. They will have to grow out. Send me a self-addressed stamped envelope and I shall send you complete instructions for manicuring.

C. T.: When your hands are sore never wash them with water, but cleanse them with olive oil. The following is good for chapped hands: One ounce cocoa butter, one ounce of oil of sweet almonds, one dram of oxide of zinc, and one dram of borax. Heat the cocoa butter and oil of almonds in a bainmarie, and when thoroughly blended add the zinc and the borax. Stir until it cools.

MRS. A. B. L.: The following lotion is good for a red nose: One dram muriate of ammonia, one-half dram tannic acid, two ounces glycerin and three ounces rose water. Dissolve the muriate of ammonia and the tannic acid in the glycerin and then add the rose water. Saturate a piece of absorbent cotton with the lotion and bind on the nose nightly until a cure results. Avoid all spicy foods, rich meats, liquors, if you take them; tea and coffee, and sudden changes in temperature. Keep the ankles and feet warm. Have you ever tried the rolling method for reducing the hips? It is good and perfectly harmless. Send me a self-addressed stamped envelope and I shall be glad to send you the rolling exercises, and also a dietary for reducing flesh.

B. D.: Straining the eyes causes them to become red and inflamed. Avoid reading as you go to and fro on the trains or street cars. Nothing can be better for tired eyes than to bathe them in a good soothing wash. If you care for it, write me a note inclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope, and I shall send you formula for an excellent eye wash, and also strengthening exercises for the eyes. By using the exercises and the wash for a couple of weeks you will notice a difference in your eyes. They will become stronger and brighter and will do their work better.